Attorney Docket No. 19240-233   Patent
(previously 18704-012)

<u>Listing of Claims</u>

1.   (Previously presented) A method for controlling an amount of access to a resource in an
electronic system to prevent unauthorized access to said resource, wherein a manager of said
resource controls said amount of access, said method comprising the steps of:

        creating electronic security value units associated with said resource under the control of
said manager to pay for accessing said resource;

        creating a pricing strategy, by said manager, for said resource in a denomination of
electronic security value units;

        determining a budget, by said manager, for at least one component of said electronic
system to access said resource by payment of said electronic security value units;

        selectively distributing said electronic security value units by said manager to said
component of said electronic system in accordance with said budget; and

        controlling access of said component to said resource based on said pricing strategy
established for said resource and based on an amount of payment by said component, of one or
more of said electronic security value units previously distributed to said component in
accordance with said budget,

        wherein said pricing strategy is dynamically adjustable at any time such that said amount
of said payment required for said component to access said resource may be changed at any time
by said manager.

2.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
denying said component access to said resource when said component pays an amount of said
electronic security value units less than said price established for said resource.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selectively distributing electronic
security value units further comprises the step of:
        determining whether to distribute any of said electronic security value units to said
component.

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4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of controlling access is further based on limiting the number of accesses to said resource, by said component, regardless of the amount of said electronic security value units paid by said component.

5.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of controlling access is further based on said manager limiting the rate of accesses to said resource by said component.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic security value units may be used to access a group of one or more resources in said electronic system.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said price is particular to said component, such that said price is different for other components of said electronic system.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic system is a network, and said component is a client in said network.

9.   (Currently amended) A computer in an electronic system that controls access to a resource in the electronic system using ~~An~~ an electronic security value instrument created under the control of a manager, ~~of a group of one or more resources in an electronic system, said instrument comprising:~~ wherein said computer comprises:

at least one processor for use in analyzing both a first field in said instrument ~~for indicating~~ that indicates a quantity of electronic security value units in said instrument; and a second field in said instrument ~~for indicating~~ that indicates ~~a specific~~ said resource in said electronic system that ~~a particular~~ said component may access by payment of said electronic security value instrument,

wherein said computer uses the electronic security value instrument ~~is used~~ to control access by ~~components~~ said component to ~~resources in said group of resources~~ said resource based on ~~prices~~ a price in electronic security value units established for said ~~resources~~ resource, said quantity of electronic security value units in said instrument as indicated by said first field, and said ~~specific~~ resource that may be accessed by payment of said electronic security value instrument as indicated by said second field.

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10.   (Currently amended) The computer of claim 9, wherein said electronic security value instrument of claim 9, further comprising comprises a third field providing an identifier of said electronic security value instrument.

11.   (Currently amended) An electronic system which uses electronic security value units to prevent unauthorized access to an interface in the system, said system comprising:

    a resource manager for determining a pricing strategy in electronic security value units for a group of one or more interfaces for a group of one or more resources in said system; and

    an electronic bank server for selectively distributing electronic security value units, under the control of said manager, to a component in said system, said electronic security value units being unique to said group of one or more resources,

    wherein access to a particular resource in said group of one or more resources by said component is determined by said pricing strategy and requires an amount of payment by said component before said access is granted, wherein said payment consists of said electronic security value units previously distributed to said component,

    wherein said access to said resources is controlled at said one or more interfaces to one or more resources and said one or more interfaces is one of a hardware access point and a software access point,

    wherein said pricing strategy is dynamically adjustable at any time such that said amount of said payment required for said component to access said particular resource may be changed at any time by said manager.

12.   (Currently amended) A method for associating electronic security value units with access by a component of an electronic system to a resource of said system, said association being performed by a manager of said resource, said method comprising the steps of:

    (a)   establishing a price, in said electronic security value units, of said resource, said price being established by said manager;

    (b)   selectively distributing a budget by said manager, in said electronic security value units, to said component, said budget being an amount of said security electronic security value units;

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(c)   controlling, by said manager, of access to said resource by said component, based on said price and on an amount of payment from said component, wherein said payment is at least a portion of said budget distributed to said component, and wherein said price of said resource is dynamically adjustable at any time such that said amount of said payment required for said component to access said resource may be changed at any time by said manager; and

(d)   determining the number of accesses that can be accomplished by said component to said resource based on said budget and said price.

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said budget can be dynamically adjusted at any time.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said resource can comprise a group of resources, each resource of said group having a respective price, and wherein said step of determining further comprises the step of determining the number of accesses that can be accomplished by said component to each said resource of said group.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said component can comprise a group of components, each component of said group having a respective budget, and wherein said step of determining further comprises the step of determining the number of accesses that can be accomplished by each said component of said group of components to said resource.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:
denying said component access to said resource when said payment from said component is less than said price established for said resource.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of controlling access is further based on limiting the number of accesses to said resource by said component, regardless of the amount of said payment.

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19.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said price is particular to said component, such that said price is different for other components of said electronic system.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said step of establishing a price is based on said budget and a limit on said number of accesses to said resource by said component.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of selectively distributing said budget is based on said price and a limit on said number of accesses to said resource by said component.

22.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said budget may be dynamically adjusted at any time.

23.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic security value units are unique to said resource.

24.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of selectively distributing said electronic security value units includes the step of distributing one or more of electronic security value instruments, said electronic security value instruments comprising a quantity of said electronic security value units.

25.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said budget is allocated on a per component basis.

26.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said budget is allocated on a per resource basis.

27.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic security value units indirectly identify said component accessing said resource.

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28.   (Previously presented) The electronic security value instrument of claim 9, wherein said electronic security value units indirectly identify said component accessing said resource.

29.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said interface comprises an application program interface.

30.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said resource comprises an application program interface, wherein said step of controlling access to said resource is performed at said application program interface.

31.   (Currently amended) A method for controlling access to an interface in an electronic system to prevent unauthorized access to said interface, wherein a manager of said interface controls said access, said method comprising the steps of:

        selectively distributing electronic security value units, by said manager, to a component of said electronic system; and

        controlling access to said interface based on a price in electronic security value units established by said manager for said interface and based on an amount of payment by said component, wherein said payment comprises one or more of said electronic security value units previously distributed to said component and said payment is made electronically over said electronic system,

        wherein said interface is one of a hardware access point and a software access point,

        wherein said price of said interface is dynamically adjustable at any time such that said amount of said payment required for said component to access said interface may be changed at any time by said manager.

32.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said interface comprises an application program interface.

33.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

        creating a pricing strategy for said resource in a denomination of said electronic security value units; and

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      allocating a budget for one of a component and a group of components to access said resource by said payment of said electronic security value units,

      wherein said step of selectively distributing said electronic security value units comprises selectively distributing said electronic security value units in accordance with said budget.

34.   (Canceled)

35.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, further comprising dynamically controlling said budget.

36.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said resource is an interface or group of interfaces in an electronic system.

37.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said component is charged for multiple accesses of said resource.

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